



Aruba's ONLY English newspaper

## HOMEMADE



*A surge of illegal homemade machine guns has helped fuel gun violence in the U.S.*

A semi-automatic pistol with a conversion device installed making it fully automatic is fired as four empty shell casings fly out of the weapon, at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), National Services Center, Thursday, March 2, 2023, in Martinsburg, W.Va.

Associated Press  
 Page 3

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

SUNDAY:	MONDAY:	TUESDAY:	WEDNESDAY:	THURSDAY:	FRIDAY:	SATURDAY:
<b>MARRYBELL MADURO</b> SINGER 6:30 - 8:30pm	<b>ANGELA FLORES</b> VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm	<b>JEAN PAUL</b> SAXOPHONIST 6:30 - 8:30pm	<b>EDDIE KROON</b> SINGER 4:00 - 6:00pm  <b>MAILLEYN ALVARADO</b> VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm  <b>KARAOKE</b> 9:00 - 11:00pm	<b>MARRYBELL MADURO</b> SINGER 6:30 - 8:30pm	<b>RICKY THOMAS</b> GUITARIST 7:00 - 9:00pm	<b>EDDIE KROON</b> SINGER 4:00 - 6:00pm  <b>ANGELA FLORES</b> VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm

**Happy Hour** 12-1/4-6/9-10

**PREMIUM BRANDS**

Tel +297 583 8000 Ext. 8106 | Reservations at [wateredge-aruba.com](http://wateredge-aruba.com) | Elegant dining, spectacular ocean views enjoyed al fresco or in air conditioned comfort | Located at Costa Linda Beach Resort

## Pinchos Grill & Bar

Now in its 20th plus year, owned and run by a local family.

Open 7 days a week, as of 5:00PM  
 Full Service Bar  
 Live Music on weekends

Reservations: (297) 583 2666 or [reservations@pinchosgrillaruba.com](mailto:reservations@pinchosgrillaruba.com)



# Katie Britt used decades-old example of rapes in Mexico as Republican attack on Biden border policy

By **EMILY WAGSTER PETTUS**  
Associated Press

The Republican senator who gave the party's response to President Joe Biden's State of the Union address used a harrowing account of a young woman's sexual abuse to attack his border policies, but the rapes did not happen in the U.S. or during the Biden administration.

First-term Sen. Katie Britt of Alabama in the GOP response criticized current immigration policies, describing how she had met a woman at the U.S.-Mexico border who told of being raped thousands of times in a sex trafficking operation run by cartels, starting

at age 12.

The victim has previously spoken publicly about the abuse happening in her home country of Mexico from 2004 to 2008 — not in the United States during the Biden administration. Yet, Britt used the account to chastise Biden's action on the border.

"We wouldn't be OK with this happening in a third-world country. This is the United States of America, and it's past time we start acting like it," Britt said in the Thursday night speech televised from her home in Alabama. "President Biden's border crisis is a disgrace."

Britt has made immigra-

tion one of her top issues in her first years in the Senate, and Republicans have seized on a surge of immigrants entering the country during Biden's term to attack the president. Former President Donald Trump, the front-runner for the Republican nomination this year, blames Biden for the killing of a Georgia nursing student after an immigrant from Venezuela who entered the U.S. illegally was arrested and charged with her murder.

Independent journalist Jonathan Katz revealed in a TikTok video Friday that the sex trafficking of the victim mentioned by Britt on Thursday did not happen during



Sen. Katie Britt, R-Ala., speaks during a news conference on the border, Feb. 15, 2023, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press

the Biden administration or in the United States.

Britt spokesman Sean Ross on Saturday confirmed to The Associated Press that the senator was speaking about the account of a young Mexican woman who told of being repeatedly raped in Mexico from 2004 to 2008 — when Republican George W. Bush was the U.S. president.

Ross said people are still victims of "disgusting, brutal trafficking by the cartels." Britt traveled to the border at the Del Rio Sector in Texas in January 2023 with fellow Republican Sens. Marsha Blackburn of Tennessee and Cindy Hyde-Smith of Mississippi, according to a news release issued then from Hyde-Smith's office.

"The Senators held a roundtable with former Mexican Congresswoman Rosa María de la Garza, Fox News Contributor Sara Carter and Karla Jacinto Romero, a survivor of human trafficking," the news release said. "The Senators learned about cartel activity in Mexico and the work being done to rescue victims of human trafficking." Romero — an advocate against human trafficking — has spoken publicly about being a victim of

child prostitution in Mexico, including during 2015 testimony to a subcommittee of the U.S. House. Romero, then 22, told the subcommittee that she was 12 when her mother threw her out on the streets, and a pimp trafficked her to more than 40,000 clients over four years. Romero said many of the clients were foreigners who had traveled to Mexico for sexual interactions with minors like her.

Britt's rebuttal, delivered from her own kitchen table, laid out a dark vision for the country under Democrats and warned of violence. She talked about her two children and warned that "life is getting more and more dangerous." She also called Biden a "dithering and diminished leader."

The Alabama senator, 42 and the youngest woman in the Senate, has said she wants to represent a new generation of leadership in Washington. She was endorsed by Trump in her 2022 election and has remained in touch with the former president, most recently pushing him to support in vitro fertilization after a ruling by her state's supreme court blocked some IVF procedures. □

**Paseo Herencia**

Live Entertainment at 8PM

**MON Latin Dance Show**      **TUE Steelpan Music**

**WED Cultural Dance Show**      **THU Acrobatic Show**

**SUN Violin Show**      **Nightly Watershows 7:30pm - 8:30pm - 9:30pm**

Stores are open from Mon to Sat 10am to 10pm and Sun 5pm to 10pm  
www.paseoherencia.com



# A surge of illegal homemade machine guns has helped fuel gun violence in the U.S.

From Front

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Eleven-year-old Domonic Davis was not far from his mom's Cincinnati home when a hail of gunfire sprayed out from a passing car. Nearly two dozen rounds hurtled through the night at a group of children in the blink of an eye.

Four other children and a woman were hurt in the November shooting that killed Domonic, who had just made his school basketball team. "What happened? How does this happen to an 11-year-old? He was only a few doors down," his father, Issac Davis, said.

The shooting remains under investigation. But federal investigators believe the 22 shots could be fired off with lightning speed because the weapon had been illegally converted to fire like a machine gun.

Communities around the U.S. have seen shootings carried out with weapons converted to fully automatic in recent years, fueled by a staggering increase in small pieces of metal or plastic made with a 3D printer or ordered online. Laws against machine guns date back to the bloody violence of Prohibition-era gangsters. But the proliferation of devices known by nicknames such as Glock switches, auto sears and chips has allowed people to transform legal semi-automatic weapons into even more dangerous guns, helping fuel gun violence, police and federal authorities said.

"Police officers are facing down fully automatic weapon fire in amounts that haven't existed in this country since the days of Al Capone and the Tommy gun," said Steve Dettelbach, director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, or ATF. "It's a huge problem." The agency reported a 570% increase in the number of conversion devices collected by police depart-



**A handgun frame that has been printed on a 3D printer is held for a photograph at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), National Services Center, Thursday, March 2, 2023, in Martinsburg, W.Va**

Associated Press

ments between 2017 and 2021, the most recent data available.

Guns with conversion devices have been used in several mass shootings, including one that left four dead at a Sweet Sixteen party in Alabama last year and another that left six people dead at a bar district in Sacramento, California, in 2022. In Houston, police officer William Jeffrey died in 2021 after being shot with a converted gun while serving a warrant. In cities such as Indianapolis, police have seized them every week.

The devices that can convert legal semi-automatic weapons can be made on a 3D printer in about 35 minutes or ordered from overseas online for less than \$30. They're also quick to install. Once in place, they modify the gun's machinery. Instead of firing one round each time the shooter squeezes the trigger, a semi-automatic weapon with a conversion device starts firing as soon as the trigger goes down and doesn't stop until the shooter lets go or the weapon runs out of ammunition.

"You're seeing them a lot in stunning numbers, particularly in street violence," said David Pucino, deputy chief counsel at Giffords Law Center. In a demonstration by ATF agents, the firing of a semi-automatic outfitted with a conversion device was nearly indistinguishable from an automatic weapon. Conversion devices with differing designs can fit a range of different guns, enabling guns to fire at a rate of 800 or more bullets per minute, according to the ATF.

"It takes two or three seconds to put in some of these devices into a firearm to make that firearm into a machine gun instantly," Dettelbach said.

Between 2012 and 2016, police departments in the U.S. found 814 conversion devices and sent them to the ATF. That number grew to more than 5,400 between 2017 and 2021, according to the agency's most recent data.

They took hold in Minneapolis in 2021, and helped fuel record-breaking gun violence that year, said police Chief Brian O'Hara. Along with spraying out bullets at

a dizzying speed, switches make a gun much more difficult for the shooter to control, so more people can be hit by accident.

"The thing is shaking as it's firing, so we wind up getting multiple victims, people hit in extremities during the same shooting incident, because the person cannot control the weapon," O'Hara said.

The city has seen a decline in their use since the September 2022 arrest of a man charged with selling switches that he had ordered from Russia and Taiwan or made himself, O'Hara said. But "it's still a very, very real problem," he said. "This is having a really deep impact on families, on neighborhoods and communities."

While the devices are considered illegal machine guns under federal law, many states don't have their own specific laws against them. In Indiana, police were finding them so often — multiple times a week in the state's capital — that the state changed the law to ensure it included switches.

"We have to update the

laws regarding machine guns to deal with the problems of today," Indianapolis police Chief Chris Bailey said.

Only 15 states have their own laws against the possession, sale or manufacture of automatic-fire weapons, according to Giffords. Indiana was one of many states that have regulations with exceptions. Five states have no state-level machine-gun regulations at all.

But long before any prosecution, police have to find the conversion devices. Often about the size of a quarter, they can easily go unnoticed by the untrained eye after being installed, said Dettelbach.

He recalled visiting a Texas police department after the ATF hosted a training on conversion devices. Afterwards, the chief searched the weapons in the evidence room and found several with previously undetected conversion devices.

"These items don't always look as dangerous as they are," he said. "If you see some of them, they're pieces of plastic and metal, and sometimes it's even hard to recognize them when they're actually on or in the firearm because they blend in." They're also increasingly a fixture online, in social media and rap lyrics, Davis said. "Everyone is talking about switches," he said. "It's a scary trend."

Davis struggles to talk about the loss of his son. Domonic would often come with his dad on Fridays to get a haircut at the barber shop where Issac Davis works. The shooting also fell on a Friday, making the end of the week an especially tough time.

Davis hopes to start a foundation called For Every Eleven to fight gun violence and honor his son's memory.

"I still want to keep his name going," he said. "He deserved to be still relevant. So I have to keep going. No matter how much grief I grieve him in private." □



# DOJ opens criminal investigation into the Alaska Airlines 737 plane blowout, report says

By **GENE JOHNSON**  
Associated Press

**SEATTLE (AP)** — The Department of Justice has launched a criminal investigation into the Boeing jetliner blowout that left a gaping hole on an Alaska Airlines plane this January, the Wall Street Journal reported on Saturday.

Citing documents and people familiar with the matter, the newspaper said investigators have contacted some passengers and crew — including pilots and flight attendants — who were on the Jan. 5th flight.

The Boeing plane used by Alaska Airlines suffered the blowout seven minutes after takeoff from Portland, Oregon, forcing the pilots to make an emergency landing. Boeing has been under increased scrutiny since the incident, when a panel that plugged a space left for an extra emergency door blew off a Max 9 jet. There were no serious injuries.

"In an event like this, it's normal for the DOJ to be conducting an investigation," Alaska Airlines said in a prepared statement. "We are fully cooperating and do not believe we are a target of the investigation."

Boeing declined to comment. DOJ did not immediately reply to a request for comment.

The Journal reported that the investigation would



This photo released by the National Transportation Safety Board shows a gaping hole where the paneled-over door had been at the fuselage plug area of Alaska Airlines Flight 1282, Jan. 7, 2024, in Portland, Ore.

assist the Department's review of whether Boeing complied with a previous settlement that resolved a federal investigation into the safety of its 737 Max aircraft following two deadly crashes in 2018 and 2019. In 2021, Boeing had agreed to pay \$2.5 billion, including a \$244 million fine, to settle an investigation into the crashes of flights operated by Lion Air and Ethiopian Airlines. The company also blamed two employees for deceiving regulators about flaws in the flight-control system.

Boeing has acknowledged

in a letter to Congress that it cannot find records for work done on the door panel of the Alaska Airlines plane.

"We have looked extensively and have not found any such documentation," Ziad Ojakli, Boeing executive vice president and chief government lobbyist, wrote to Sen. Maria Cantwell on Friday.

The company said its "working hypothesis" was that the records about the panel's removal and reinstallation on the 737 MAX final assembly line in Renton, Washington, were never

created, even though Boeing's systems required it.

The letter, reported earlier by The Seattle Times, followed a contentious Senate committee hearing Wednesday in which Boeing and the National Transportation Safety Board argued over whether the company had cooperated with investigators.

The safety board's chair, Jennifer Homendy, testified that for two months Boeing repeatedly refused to identify employees who work on door panels on Boeing 737s and failed to provide documentation about a

repair job that included removing and reinstalling the door panel.

"It's absurd that two months later we don't have that," Homendy said. "Without that information, that raises concerns about quality assurance, quality management, safety management systems" at Boeing.

Cantwell, a Democrat from Washington, demanded a response from Boeing within 48 hours.

Shortly after the Senate hearing, Boeing said it had given the NTSB the names of all employees who work on 737 doors — and had previously shared some of them with investigators.

In the letter, Boeing said it had already made clear to the safety board that it couldn't find the documentation. Until the hearing, it said, "Boeing was not aware of any complaints or concerns about a lack of collaboration."

In a preliminary report last month, the NTSB said four bolts that help keep the door plug in place were missing after the panel was removed so workers could repair nearby damaged rivets last September. The rivet repairs were done by contractors working for Boeing supplier Spirit AeroSystems, but the NTSB still does not know who removed and replaced the door panel, Homendy said Wednesday. □

Associated Press



In this frame grab taken from video provided by KRGV, authorities stage near where a helicopter flying over the U.S.-Mexico border in Texas crashed, killing two National Guard soldiers and a Border Patrol agent, March 8, 2024.

Associated Press

**LA GRULLA, Texas (AP)** — A National Guard soldier from New York who was seriously injured in the crash of a helicopter flying over the U.S.-Mexico

border remained hospitalized Sunday while authorities released the names of the two National Guard soldiers and a Border Patrol agent

## 2 National Guard soldiers, 1 Border Patrol agent killed in Texas helicopter crash are identified

onboard who were killed. The three killed Friday in the crash in a field in Texas near Rio Grande City were: Chief Warrant Officer 2 Casey Frankoski, 28, and Chief Warrant Officer 2 John Grassia, 30, both with the New York National Guard; and Border Patrol Agent Chris Luna, 49. The cause of the crash remains under investigation.

The UH-72 Lakota helicopter was assigned to the federal government's border security mission when it went down while the helicopter was

conducting aviation operations, according to a statement released by Joint Task Force North, a military unit that supports Customs and Border Protection. No other details were provided.

The injured soldier was from the New York National Guard, according to the National Guard Bureau. The soldier, whose name isn't being released, was the aircraft crew chief. The soldier remained hospitalized, according to a news release posted by the New York State Division of

Military & Naval Affairs. Major General Ray Shields, the adjutant general of New York, said in the release that they are "shocked and devastated" by the deaths of Frankoski and Grassia, and are "praying for the quick recovery" of the injured crew chief.

Troy Miller, acting commissioner of Customs and Border Protection, said in a statement that they were "heartbroken" by the death of Luna, who is survived by his wife and two children, parents and brother. □



## The Netherlands opened a Holocaust museum amid protests against Israeli president's presence

By MOLLY QUELL and BARBARA SURK

Associated Press

**AMSTERDAM (AP)** — The Netherlands opened the National Holocaust Museum on Sunday with a ceremony presided over by the Dutch king as well as Israeli President Isaac Herzog, whose presence prompted protest because of Israel's military campaign in Gaza.

The museum in Amsterdam tells the stories of some of the 102,000 Jews who were deported from the Netherlands and murdered in Nazi camps, as well as the history of their structural persecution under German World War II occupation before the deportations began.

The museum "gives a face and a voice to the Jewish victims of persecution in the Netherlands," the Dutch King Willem-Alexander said in the address at the inaugural ceremony on Sunday. It also "shows us the devastating consequences that antisemitism can have," he added. "That is why we must continue to be aware of how things began and how they went from bad to worse," the king said. Earlier, the king and the Israeli president visited Amsterdam's famous Portuguese Synagogue.

Herzog hailed the Netherlands's initiative to create a new Holocaust museum

amid what he said was raising antisemitism around the world.

"At this pivotal moment in time, this institution sends a clear powerful statement," Herzog said. "Remember! Remember the horrors born of hatred, antisemitism and racism, and never again allow them to flourish."

Sunday's ceremony came against a backdrop of Israel's devastating attacks on Gaza that followed the deadly incursions by Hamas in southern Israel on Oct. 7. Thousands of pro-Palestinian protesters gathered amid tightened security at the Waterloo Square in central Amsterdam, near the museum and the synagogue, waving Palestinian flags, chanting "Never again is now," and demanding an end of Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories and an immediate cease-fire in Gaza.

The protest leaders emphasized they were against Herzog's presence, not the museum and what it commemorates.

"For us Jews, these museums are part of our history, of our past," said Joana Cavaco, an anti-war activist with the Erev Rav Jewish collective, addressing the crowd ahead of the ceremony. She added: "How is it possible that such a sacred space is being



**Demonstrators protest against Israel's President Isaac Herzog attending the opening of the new National Holocaust Museum in Amsterdam, Netherlands, Sunday, March 10, 2024.**

Associated Press

used to normalize genocide today?"

Three-quarters of Dutch Jews were among the 6 million Jews murdered by the Nazis. Herzog was among Israeli leaders cited in an order issued in January by the top United Nations court for Israel to do all it can to prevent death, destruction and any acts of genocide in Gaza. He accused the International Court of Justice of misrepresenting his comments in the ruling. Israel strongly rejected allegations leveled by South Africa in the court case that the military campaign in Gaza breaches the Genocide Convention.

"I was disgusted by the way they twisted my words, using very, very partial and fragmented quotes, with the intention of supporting an unfounded legal contention," Herzog said, days after the ruling.

A pro-Palestinian Dutch or-

ganization, The Rights Forum, called Herzog's presence "a slap in the face of the Palestinians who can only helplessly watch how Israel murders their loved ones and destroys their land."

In a statement issued ahead of Sunday's opening, the Jewish Cultural Quarter that runs the museum said it is "profoundly concerned by the war and the consequences this conflict has had, first and foremost for the citizens of Israel, Gaza and the West Bank."

It said that it is "all the more troubling that the National Holocaust Museum is opening while war continues to rage. It makes our mission all the more urgent."

The museum is housed in a former teacher training college that was used as a covert escape route to help some 600 Jewish children to escape from the clutches of the Nazis.

Exhibits include a prominent photo of a boy walking past bodies in Bergen-Belsen after the liberation of the concentration camp, and mementos of lives lost: a doll, an orange dress made from parachute material and a collection of 10 buttons excavated from the grounds of the Sobibor camp.

The walls of one room are covered with the texts of hundreds of laws discriminating against Jews enacted by the German occupiers of the Netherlands, to show how the Nazi regime, assisted by Dutch civil servants, dehumanized Jews ahead of operations to round them up. The museum brings to life the stories of people who were "isolated from the rest of Dutch society, robbed of their rights, denied legal protection, rounded up, imprisoned, separated from their loved ones and murdered," the Dutch king said. □



**Men detained under a state of emergency are transported to a detention center in a cargo truck, in Soyapango, El Salvador, Friday, Oct. 7, 2022.**

Associated Press

**SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP)** — El Salvador's lawmakers have granted a request by

President Nayib Bukele for the 24th consecutive one-month extension of an anti-gang

## El Salvador extends anti-gang emergency decree for 24th time. It's now been in effect for two years

emergency decree.

The vote by congress late Friday means that by March 27, the country will have spent a full two years under the decree, which suspends some rights.

Bukele has used emergency powers to round up 78,175 suspected gang members in sweeps that rights groups say are often arbitrary, based on a person's appearance

or where they live. The government has had to release about 7,000 people because of a lack of evidence.

The measure was approved Friday with 67 votes in the 84-seat congress, where Bukele's party holds a majority. The original 30-day state of emergency — approved on March 27, 2022, following a spate of 62 killings in one day — restricts the right to gather,

to be informed of rights and have access to a lawyer. It extends to 15 days the time that someone can be held without charges.

El Salvador's homicide totals have dropped from 6,656 in 2015 — an average of about 18 per day — to 18 so far this year.

In all of 2023, there were about 214 homicides, or about one every two days. □



# U.S. forces fly in to beef up security at embassy in Haiti and evacuate nonessential personnel

By **EVENS SANON**

**Associated Press**

**PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)**

— The U.S. military said Sunday that it had flown in forces to beef up security at the U.S. Embassy in Haiti and allow nonessential personnel to leave.

The aircraft flew to the embassy compound, the U.S. Southern Command said, meaning that the effort involved helicopters. It was careful to point out that “no Haitians were on board the military aircraft.” That seemed aimed at quashing any speculation that senior government officials might be leaving as the gang attacks in Haiti worsen.

The neighborhood around the embassy in the capital, Port-au-Prince, is largely controlled by gangs.

“This airlift of personnel into and out of the Embassy is consistent with our standard practice for Embassy security augmentation worldwide, and no Haitians were on board the military aircraft,” according to the Southcom statement.

In many cases, nonessential personnel can include the families of diplomats, but the embassy had already ordered departure for nonessential staff and all family members in July. The personnel ferried out of the embassy may have simply been rotating out, to be re-



**A man enters the U.S. embassy in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Sunday, March 10, 2024.**

**Associated Press**

freshed by new staff.

The statement Sunday said that the United States remains focused on aiding Haitian police and arranging some kind of U.N.-authorized security deployment. But those efforts have been unsuccessful so far.

Haiti’s embattled prime minister, Ariel Henry, traveled recently to Kenya to push for the U.N.-backed deployment of a police force from the East African country to fight the gangs. But a Kenyan court ruled in January that such a deployment would be unconstitutional. Henry, who is facing calls to

resign or form a transitional council, remains unable to return home. He arrived in Puerto Rico on Tuesday after he was unable to land in the Dominican Republic, which borders Haiti.

On Saturday, the office of Dominican President Luis Abinader issued a statement saying that “Henry is not welcome in the Dominican Republic for safety reasons.” The Dominican Republic, which shares the island of Hispaniola with Haiti, has closed its land border. “Given the current situation, the presence of the Haitian prime minister in the Domini-

can Republic is not considered appropriate,” according to the statement, adding that “this decision reflects the firm position of the Dominican government to safeguard its national security and stability.”

The statement described the security situation in Haiti as “totally unsustainable” and said that it “poses a direct threat to the safety and stability of the Dominican Republic.”

The statement predicted “the situation could deteriorate even further if a peacekeeping force is not implemented urgently to

restore order.”

Caribbean leaders have called for an emergency meeting Monday in Jamaica on what they called Haiti’s “dire” situation. They have invited the United States, France, Canada, the United Nations and Brazil to the meeting.

Members of the CARICOM regional trade bloc have been trying for months to get political actors in Haiti to agree to form an umbrella transitional unity government.

CARICOM said Friday that while regional leaders remain deeply engaged in trying to bring opposition parties and civil society groups together to form a unity government, “the stakeholders are not yet where they need to be.”

“We are acutely aware of the urgent need for consensus to be reached,” according to the statement. “We have impressed on the respective parties that time is not on their side in agreeing to the way forward. From our reports, the situation on the ground remains dire and is of serious concern to us.”

In February, Henry agreed to hold a general election by mid-2025, and the international community has tried to find some foreign armed force willing to fight gang violence there. □



**In this image made from video, damaged houses are seen in a village affected by flash flood in Langgai, West Sumatra, Indonesia, Sunday, March 10, 2024.**

**Associated Press**

**PADANG, Indonesia (AP)**

— Torrential rains have triggered flash floods and a landslide on Indonesia’s Sumatra island, killing at least

19 people and leaving seven others missing, officials said Sunday.

Tons of mud, rocks and uprooted trees rolled down a

## At least 19 dead and 7 missing as landslide and flash floods hit Indonesia’s Sumatra island

mountain late Friday, reaching a river that burst its banks and tore through mountain-side villages in Pesisir Selatan district of West Sumatra province, said Doni Yusrizal, who heads the local disaster management agency.

Rescuers by Saturday pulled out seven bodies in the worst-hit village of Koto XI Tarusan, and recovered three others in two neighboring villages, Yusrizal said. Rescuers retrieved six bodies in Pesisir Selatan and three

more in the neighboring district of Padang Pariaman, bringing the death toll to 19, the National Disaster Management Agency said on Sunday.

The agency in a statement said at least two villagers were injured by the flash flood and rescuers are searching for seven people who are reportedly still missing.

It said more than 80,000 people had fled to temporary government shelters

after the flood and landslide buried 14 houses, while 20,000 houses were flooded up to the roof in nine districts and cities in West Sumatra province.

“Relief efforts for the dead and missing were hampered by power outages, blocked roads covered in thick mud and debris,” Yusrizal said.

Heavy rains cause frequent landslides and flash floods in Indonesia, where millions of people live in mountainous areas or near floodplains. □



## Got a few old sports balls lying around? Donate to our local YMCA in San Nicolas

(Oranjestad)—The YMCA Aruba is a non-profit organization dedicated to the spiritual, intellectual, and physical well being of individuals and wholeness of communities. They provide fun activities and programs for both children and teens to enjoy.

Recently, it has been brought to Aruba Today's attention that they are welcoming donations of sports balls (base balls, basket balls, volley balls etc.) We find it important to spotlight and uplift our local organizations for the well-being of our community, so, if you are planning on travelling to Aruba any time soon and have extra space in your luggage, spare the YMCA Aruba some extra sports balls! All donations are welcomed and highly appreciated. □



## Aruban snacks and where to find them

**ORANJESTAD** — Want to taste something different for a change? How about some Aruban snacks that you can find all around the island? Hop in your car, and go to these locations to find some of the most popular and tasty snacks that are beloved by our locals.

One of the staples of Aruban cuisine and snacks is the Pastechi. Pastechi is a Caribbean fried pastry that is filled with cheese, meat, chicken, veggies and sometimes even fish! Or perhaps you might want to try a croquette, locally called a "kroket," which is a crusty fried snack with typically a meat and dough mix filling. The Aruban kroket is based on its Dutch counterpart, the "bitterbal".

These two snacks are typically found in all local snack trucks, which can be found all over the island, including on the side of the main road that stretches from San Nicolas to the Hotel Area. You can also find pastechis and krokets at local bakeries and snack shops, like Bright Bakery in Piedra Plat, Huchada in Santa Cruz or Pastechi House in the city center. These places may also sell other snacks and sandwiches too, perfect for on-the-road lunch break.

While you're at it, why not accompany your



snack with a refreshing "batido"? Batidos are fruit shakes, typically made with added milk for some creaminess. However, you can also ask

to hold the milk. Batidos are commonly found in snack shops too. You may find some batido shops next the flee markets downtown, or if you're on your way to San Nicolas, at Mauchi Smoothies and Juice Bar in Savaneta (located at the side of the main road).

If you are looking for something a bit more fresh and healthy, why not try some coconuts, or shaved ice from local vendors? These vendors carry their little shop at the back of their truck, so they are ever-moving around the island. However, there are a few spots where you can almost always find a coconut/shaved ice vendor:

1. Right next to the Red Anchor in San Nicolas, on the way to Baby Beach.
2. Along the main road next to the airport field.
3. At the California Light House.
4. At the Alto Vista Chapel.

These vendors may also sell other delights, like the beloved coconut-based dessert "cocada" or peanuts. All in all, in Aruba, you can always find some place to take a break and have a bite of something local, you maybe just might have to look for them! □

Photo credit: wheninaruba.com





## Discover all the benefits that Aruba Quality Apartments & Suites has to offer



So please, for your next trip to Aruba book directly with us at Aruba Quality Apartments & Suites.

Don't hesitate to contact us... Marisella, Aislinn, Janique & Alec. ☐

**Aruba Quality Apartments & Suites**  
Tel: (297)-582-0697  
WhatsApp: (297)-734-3008

**Email:**  
info@arubaqualityapartments.com

**Website:**  
www.arubaqualityapartments.com

**Toll Free Calls from the USA & Canada:** 1-888-415-1095  
**Toll Free Calls from the Netherlands:** 085-009-0218  
**Office Hours:** Monday – Friday: 8am-7pm. Saturday & Sunday: 9am-5pm.  
**Facebook:** @qualityapartments **Instagram:** aruba\_quality\_apts

**Aruba Quality Apartments & Suites has been providing quality service in Aruba since 1995. On the premises are a total of 73 apartments (46 Studio, 22 loft apartments & 5 suites).**

Known for its cleanliness, quiet atmosphere, hospitality at affordable daily and monthly rates. All 73 apartments are fully furnished and non-smoking. There is free WIFI on the premises and free international phone calls from the comfort of your room. There is a fresh-water pool, a fitness room and a laundry room. 2 BBQ sets outside. Free parking. And a security guard at night.

Aruba Quality Apartments & Suites is conveniently located less than 1 mile from Aruba's beautiful Eagle Beach, restaurants, hospital / pharmacy, casino's, 2 large supermarkets, car rentals, IMAX cinema and a golf course.



## Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitor at La Cabana Beach Resort Aruba!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Goodwill Ambassador of Aruba. The honoree was respectfully honored with a certificate acknowledging her years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three honoring levels are as follows:  
Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)  
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)



Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honoree was:  
Goodwill Ambassador  
Ms. Barbara Smith from Florida, United States.

Mr. Jorgino Willems representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of La Cabana Beach Resort Aruba bestowed the certificate to the honoree, presented her with memorable gifts, and also thanked her for choosing Aruba as her best-loved vacation destination, as her home away from home.

Top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honoree were:

- Aruba's people.
- Aruba's wonderful weather.
- Aruba's sun, sand and sea.
- Aruba's fabulous restaurants.
- "I Love Aruba"

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". ☐

## Aruba to me

**ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.**

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is ..... Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation. Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook

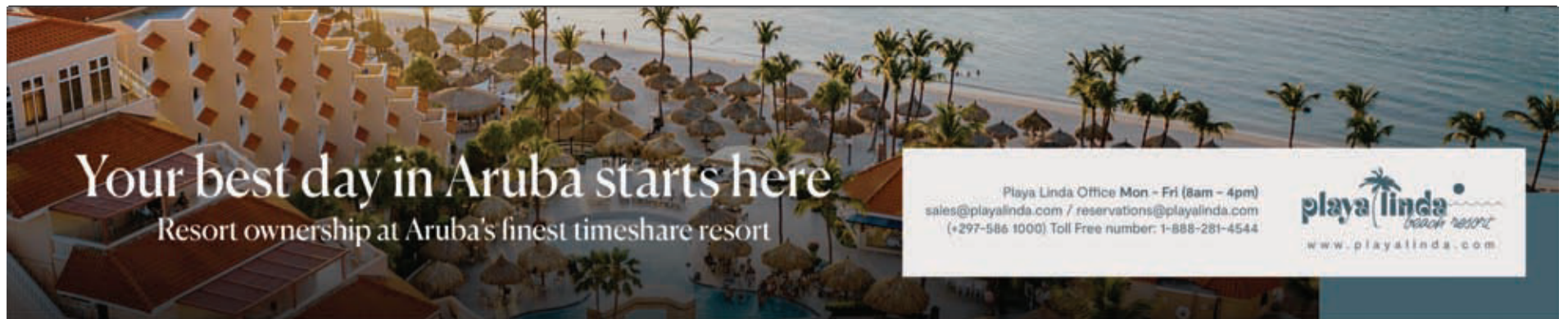


page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again. For today we received a lovely message from our awesome visitors Connie Robb and Beth Horton from Ohio, USA.

They wrote to us saying: "Aruba to us is being with an old friend."

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! ☐





## Rhythms Circus Company Aruba: putting Aruba's name on the world stage



**Rhythms Circus Company Aruba is a talented group of young people working daily to present their art in the form of acrobatics, dancing, acting and singing. After an impactful participation in one of America's biggest talent shows, they are now bringing their amazing talent to Aruba!**

In a show full of light, music, and with performances to famous musical figures like Elvis Presley, Michael Jackson and Tina Turner, the group consisting of 15 people from various countries delights the audience with their artistic prowess at the Paseo Herencia Mall, every Wednesday and Friday starting at 7pm. Each day has a different show, so you can attend both nights for the complete experience!

RCCA also offers the possibility for you and your family to enjoy dinner before the show! Starting from 6pm, you and your family can delight from the wide-ranged menu that includes a variation of delicious main course meals complete with a delectable flan dessert as a sweet treat. Enjoy your dinner even more at a VIP table complete with comfort seating!

The group, under the leadership of directors and creators Diego Jaramillo and Yamila Hernandez are opening the doors to the ballroom to our local audience as well as our visitors so that everyone can have the privilege of experiencing this wonderful show.

Hernandez explained that the idea for this project started in 2010 when she came to work in Aruba. After being on the island for a while she decided to stay and live here, and she met Diego Jaramillo, who is currently her partner. Together they came with the idea to establish a company together with other professional artists, with the goal of living from their art.

Hernandez says that the work is hard – all of the performers are professional artists, and while the production of the show is not a challenge for them, selling the idea proved difficult since at the time, there weren't any shows of its kind on the island.

### America's Got Talent

Currently they are offering a show with music, choreography and at the end, they have

a shocking acrobatics ending, one that was seen by thousands of people around the world when the group travelled to Los Angeles in the United States to represent Aruba in America's Got Talent. Hernandez said that the show was very important for them to meet the public present because people could experience this performance live and right before their eyes.

Their presentation in America's Got Talent "was incredible" and they were able to meet the jury and many other artists staying there for three months. But the exhaustion and physical toll was so great that Diego suffered an accident, and because of this, they had to cancel all future commitments.

### Reservations and tickets

To make a reservation to see this incredible display of creativity and acrobatics, scan the QR code which will take you directly to their website for a booking. To find more information about RCCA, please visit their Instagram page @rcccaruba.



## Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Marriott Surf Club!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. These honorees were respectively honored with a certificate acknowledging their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

### The three honoring levels are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)  
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

### The honorees were:

Goodwill Ambassadors  
Mr. Tony & Marianne from New Jersey, United States.

Mr. Jorgino Willems representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Marriott Surf Club bestowed the certificate to the honorees, presented them with memorable gifts, and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their best-loved vacation destination, as their home away from home.



### Top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:

- Aruba's people.
- Aruba's wonderful weather.
- Aruba's sun, sand and sea.
- Aruba's fabulous restaurants.
- "Feel Safe"

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island"



# Register for the AUA Airport Runway Run 2024

## Join AAA Wings of Hope and give back to the community

Aruba Airport Authority N.V.'s (AAA)Wings of Hope (WoH) team is organizing the 2nd AUA Airport Runway Run 2024 on Sunday March 17, 2024, where a total of 125 runners will have the opportunity to experience a unique event and give back to the community.

AAA's WoH focuses on executing socially responsible projects with United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as its guiding principle to contribute to the well-being, further development, and sustainability of the Aruban community. As part of WoH's 2024 plan, like last year, the 2nd AUA Airport Runway Run 2024 will focus on raising funds for 2 foundations including Trampolin Pa Trabao and Funari, which foundations were chosen by AAA employees who voted for these foundations through a company poll.

Trampolin Pa Trabao's essential goal is to find employment for people with limitations from the age of 17 and up. Within a structured job training and guidance program, the goal is to match their clients with local employers that best complement their potential.

Funari focuses on the social integration of physi-



cally disabled individuals into society. Their main goal is to take their clients out of their isolation and provide them with a sense of "normalcy" to keep their minds and bodies active.

The 2nd AUA Airport Runway Run 2024 will have a total of 125 runner spots available that will be running a little over 5K starting from Runway 11 to Runway 29 and back towards Runway 11. The AUA Airport Runway Run will start at 6:00AM and finish at 7:00AM. The tickets will be going live on Saturday March 9, 2024, at 12PM exclusively on Pay.aw for AWG 25, -, and will be based on first come first serve. To be able to participate in

the AUA Airport Runway Run, participants must be a runner (walking during the Runway Run will not be possible due to airport restrictions), must be 18+ years old, and must bring a valid ID upon registration to enter Airport premises for the Runway Run. All runners will receive branded gadgets such as Safety Vests and hydration belt waist bags which will be used by the runners during the actual runway run.

AAA Wings of Hope looks forward to welcoming this year's 125 lucky runners for the 2nd AUA Airport Runway Run 2024, and together raise funds for a good cause.☐



### Aruba to me

**ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.**

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is ..... Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from our awesome visitors Susan and Dominick Tedesco from Ballston Lake, New York, USA.

They wrote to us saying: "Aruba is to me is great friends who share our love for Aruba and each other every year."

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers!☐

## Important notice from FNPA: Quadiriki and Fontein Cave under maintenance

The Aruba National Park Foundation (FNPA) would like to share that Fontein Cave and Quadirikiri Cave will be undergoing necessary maintenance work in the upcoming weeks to ensure the safety and security of the cave, our rangers, and visitors.

Please find the following operation hours for your reference and planning purposes:



### Quadirikiri

Dates: 12, 13 & 14 March 2024

Open: 10:00 am – 16:00 pm

Closed: 9:00 am – 10:00 am

### Fontein Cave

Dates: 19, 20 & 21 March 2024

Open: 14:00 pm – 16:00 pm

Closed: 9:00 am – 14:00 pm

FNPA would like to thank you for your collaboration and understanding during this maintenance process.☐



# National Park Arikok: Aruba's biggest nature conservation



**The National Park Arikok comprises almost 18 % of the island. Its rugged terrain, desert-like hills filled with tall cacti, breathtaking coastline and protected local flora and fauna welcome you to be explored. There are numerous animals to discover, for example the sea turtle who lays his eggs on the park's beaches.**

The national park Arikok takes you on a memorable journey of the islands past offering unique geological, cultural and historical sites. These can all be enjoyed and explored either on your own or during guided tours. A wide variety of educational and informative programs and fun activities is available.

Did you know that four of the in total seven species of sea turtle lay their eggs on Aruba's beaches? In the national park, a Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*) keeps a strict eye on a very special event taking place below on the beach: a majestic Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) heads back to



sea after laying her eggs, while another nest laid 2 months ago by the same female hatches—a very rare occurrence of daytime nesting and hatching. Sea turtles prefer nesting in the cool and dark hours of the night. And hatchlings usually wait for the cue of cooling surface sand before emerging.

### Nature Conservation

The protected area of National Park Arikok was officially established in 2000. Arikok National Park is a 34 square kilometers (7907 acres) of natural area, located at the north-eastern part of Aruba which contains examples of most of the island's flora and fauna against a backdrop of great geological complexity. We are proud to state that approximately 18% of the total land area of Aruba is assigned as a National Park, to protect and preserve the flora, fauna, geology and historical remains present within Arikok National Park.

### The Landscape

There is a great geological

variety within the park. The main aspects are the rough hills of the volcanic Aruba lava formation, the mysterious rocks of the batholithic quartz-diorite/tonalite, and the limestone rocks from fossilized coral. The two tallest hills on the island are situated within the park. Jamanota hill 188 meters (617 ft) and Arikok hill 176 meters (577 ft), from which the name of the park is derived.

The line of the permanently wind-and-wave beaten North Coast is broken by several bays (boca's). Most of them are small yet impressive inlets at the mouth of dry riverbeds. Some of these bays (boca's) are spectacular sights, adorned with white, sandy beaches

and sand dunes, as is the case at Boca Prins and Dos Playa.

Prins you can find these adobe houses.

### Park Management

For the management of the park, a dedicated foundation "Fundacion Parke Nacional Arikok" (FPNA), known today as the Aruba National Park Foundation was established in July 2003. In February 2017, mangrove and wetland RAMSAR site #198 Spanish Lagoon was annexed to Arikok National Park due to its importance as a feeding and breeding area for water birds and as a nursery area for a variety of marine organisms. With this addition, the areas under FPNA management increased by 70 hectares while the amount of species of flora and fauna to be conserved to over 250. On December 21st, 2018 (AB 2018 no. 77) Parke Marino Aruba – currently consisting of four marine protected areas (MPAs) – was officially established and subsequently brought under management of FPNA. In 2019 management plans will be established for the new MPAs which include: coral reefs, sea grass beds, mangrove systems, a large diversity of breeding seabirds. Parke Marino Aruba also contains potential shark nursery areas, endangered sea turtle nesting beaches and marine mammal nursery areas. □

Arikok is also home to Conchi, Aruba's most important natural attraction; also known as The Natural Pool. The journey to the Pool is and adventure by itself and only possible by foot, horse, ATV or 4x4 vehicle.

### Cultural and Historical components

There are a number of sites within the park that attest to the history of Aruba. The Caquetío Indians left rock paintings in Cunucu Arikok and Fontein Cave. The bird drawing in the park logo is a copy of one of these historical artistic expressions.

Old plantation (Cunucus) sites tell the story of an active yet challenging agricultural past.

These Cunucus were also residential areas for the few families that worked the land. These families found ways to survive in the difficult conditions, and were able to erect their homes with materials found in the area. Two of these adobe houses have been restored. Park rangers are learning many of the old building techniques in order to preserve this unique Aruban mud-house. At Cunucu Arikok and near Plantation





**CROSSWORD**

By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS** 39 Contest

1 Raced form

5 Dragon's home

9 Digging tool

10 Book of maps

12 "The Tempest" sprite

13 Character found in kids' books

14 Root vegetable

16 Life story, for short

17 Frozen desserts

18 Optimally

21 Homer's neighbor

22 Exhalation

23 "What a pity"

24 Poultry purchases

26 Uncooked

29 Seasoned sausage

30 Song for one

31 Noah's boat

32 Root vegetable

34 Political crime

37 Did some modeling

38 Sun-powered

40 Neat

41 Loch name

**DOWN**

1 Evergreen tree

2 Matched up

3 Perfect places

4 Sandwich shop

5 Judge's concern

6 One day — time

7 "Yeah, right!"

8 Root vegetable

9 Glossy fabric

A	S	I	S		P	O	R	C	H
S	U	M	U	P	A	W	A	R	E
T	A	P	E	R	D	E	F	E	R
E	V	E	E	S	S	T	A	B	
R	E	D	A	C	T	G	E	M	S
	R	E	L	I	E	V	E	R	S
		I	S	L	E	T			
	R	E	V	E	L	R	I	E	S
P	O	S	E	A	S	T	R	O	S
L	O	T	F	R	I	R	A	P	
O	M	A	H	A	O	H	A	R	A
T	I	T	A	N	N	O	T	E	D
S	E	E	M	S	W	A	D	E	

**Saturday's answer**

11 Chimney grime

15 Root vegetable

19 Pekoe and oolong

20 Naughty character

22 Period of growth

23 Relaxing resort

24 Root vegetable

25 Acid's opposite

26 Ribbing tributes

27 Changes "Toy Story"

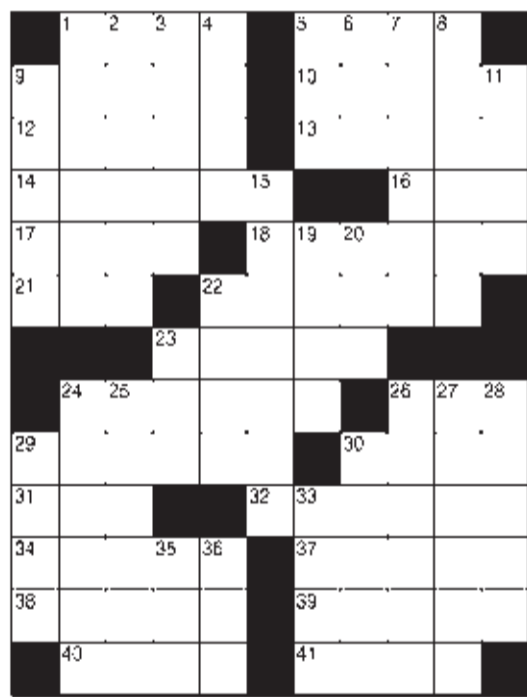
29 Hangs low

30 Gem

33 Ready for business

35 Passing craze

36 Attempt



A X Y D I B A A X R  
is L O N G F E L L O W

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

3-11

**CRYPTOQUOTE**

R I F V L T L T S I L H Y K X O X O T

L I C T C . K H T D T L R C Z L K H Q .

— N F V H L V A I H N K A T H T W  
Saturday's Cryptoquote: THERE HAS NEVER YET BEEN AN UNINTERESTING LIFE.  
— MARK TWAIN

**Cruise ship Schedule: Mar 09- Mar 17 2024**

SAT	09	STAR PRIDE	06.00	18.00	1
TUE	12	SILVER DAWN	08.00	23.00	1
		SYMPHONY OF THE SEAS	08.00	21.00	1
		RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	08.00	****	1
WED	13	ROTTERDAM	08.00	17.00	1
		GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS	16.00	****	1
		RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS - Dept.	****	18.00	
THU	14	NORWEGIAN SKY	08.00	20.00	1
		MSC DIVINA	07.00	14.00	1
		GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS - Dept	****	18.00	
FRI	15	SEVEN SEAS SPLENDOR	07.00	18.00	1
		WIND SPIRIT	10.00	23.00	1
SAT	16	AIDAPERLA	08.00	18.00	1
SUN	17	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	23.00	1
		CELEBRITY SUMMIT	10.00	23.30	1

**Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba**

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

**Electrical power**

Aruba generally operates



**Drinking water**

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

**Supermarket hours**

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where



**Pharmacies**

Aloe	584-4606
Centro Medico	584-5794
Central	585-1965
Dakota	588-7364
Del Pueblo	582-1253
Eagle	587-9011
Kibrahacha	583-4908
Maria	585-8145
DiServicio Noord	586-4606
Oduber	582-1780
Paradera	588-6638
San Lucas	584-5119
San Nicolas	584-5712
Santa Anna	586-8181
Santa Cruz	585-8028
Sero Preto	584-4833
Trupial	583-8560

**Out-of-hours pharmacies**

Oranjestad: Paradera  
Tel. 588 6638  
San Nicolas: San Nicolas  
Tel. 584 5712

**Honey Dolls**  
MESSAGE AND ESCORT SERVICE

**Beautiful Latin Girls**  
Pick-up & Delivery

Serving Men - Couple - Women - All Genders

+297 565-9535

WWW.PLEASUREINARUBA.COM



# Microsoft says it hasn't been able to shake Russian state hackers

By **FRANK BAJAK**  
AP Technology Writer

**BOSTON (AP)** — Microsoft said Friday it's still trying to evict the elite Russian government hackers who broke into the email accounts of senior company executives in November and who it said have been trying to breach customer networks with stolen access data.

The hackers from Russia's SVR foreign intelligence service used data obtained in the intrusion, which it disclosed in mid-January, to compromise some source-code repositories and internal systems, the software giant said in a blog and a regulatory filing. A company spokesman would not characterize what source code was accessed and what capability the hackers gained to further compromise customer and Microsoft systems. Microsoft said Friday that the hackers stole "secrets" from email communications between the company and unspecified customers — cryptographic secrets such as passwords, certificates and authentication keys — and that it was reaching out to them "to assist in taking mitigating measures."

Cloud-computing company Hewlett Packard Enterprise disclosed on Jan. 24 that it, too, was an SVR hacking victim and that it had been informed of the breach — by whom it would not say



The Microsoft logo is shown at the Mobile World Congress 2023 in Barcelona, Spain, on March 2, 2023.

Associated Press

— two weeks earlier, coinciding with Microsoft's discovery it had been hacked. "The threat actor's ongoing attack is characterized by a sustained, significant commitment of the threat actor's resources, coordination, and focus," Microsoft said Friday, adding that it could be using obtained data "to accumulate a picture of areas to attack and enhance its ability to do so." Cybersecurity experts said Microsoft's admission that the SVR hack had not been contained exposes the perils of the heavy reliance by government and business on the Redmond, Washington, company's software monoculture — and the fact that so many of its customers are linked through its global cloud network.

"This has tremendous national security implications," said Tom Kellermann of the cybersecurity firm Contrast Security. "The Russians can now leverage supply chain attacks against Microsoft's customers."

Amit Yoran, the CEO of Tenable, also issued a statement, expressing both alarm and dismay. He is among security professionals who find Microsoft overly secretive about its vulnerabilities and how it handles hacks. "We should all be furious that this keeps happening," Yoran said. "These breaches aren't isolated from each other and Microsoft's shady security practices and misleading statements purposely obfuscate the whole truth."

Microsoft said it had not yet determined whether the incident is likely to ma-

terially impact its finances. It also said the intrusion's stubbornness "reflects what has become more broadly an unprecedented global threat landscape, especially in terms of sophisticated nation-state attacks." The hackers, known as Cozy Bear, are the same hacking team behind the SolarWinds breach. □



**HEALTH**

**DOCTOR ON DUTY**

**Oranjestad**

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm  
Tel. 527 4000

**San Nicolas**

ImSan 24 hours  
Tel. 524 8833

**PHARMACY ON DUTY**

**Oranjestad:**

Paradera : Tel. 588 6638  
San Nicolas: Tel. 584 4833

**OTHER**

Dental Clinic 587 9850  
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002  
Urgent Care 586 0448  
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic  
+297 588 0539

**EMERGENCY**

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

**TAXI SERVICES**

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

**TRAVEL INFO**

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

**AID FOUNDATIONS**

FAVI- Visually Impaired  
Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous  
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous  
Tel. 583 8989

Fundacion Contra Violencia  
Relacional Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes  
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention  
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

**General Info**

Phone Directory Tel. 118

**ARUBA TODAY**

**Editor**  
Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.  
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668  
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.  
Acc. #23951903  
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

**Editors**

Pilar Flores  
Richard Brooks  
Angette Figuereo

**Sales**

Mark Gomes  
Sulaika Croes

**Classifieds**

classified@cspnv.com

**Distribution and Collection**

accounting@bondia.com

**Social / Website**

Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22  
T: 582-7800  
E: news@arubatoday.com  
W: www.arubatoday.com  
@arubatoday



**Marriott Aruba Surf Club PLATINUM SEASON**

2 Bed Oceanfront \$35,000  
2 Bed Oceanside \$19,000  
2 Bed Ocean view \$22,000  
2 Bed Garden view \$15,000  
3 Bed Ocean view \$30,000  
WK 51 Ocean view \$65,000  
WK 52 Ocean View \$65,000  
WK 7 and 14 - all views

**GOLD SEASON**

2 Bed Oceanfront \$18,000  
2 Bed Oceanside \$9,750  
2 Bed Ocean view \$9,000  
2 Bed Garden view \$7,000  
3 Bed Ocean view \$16,500

**Marriott Aruba Ocean Club PLATINUM SEASON**

2 Bed Oceanfront \$36,000  
2 Bed Ocean view \$27,000  
1 Bed Ocean front \$22,000  
1 Bed Ocean View \$17,500

**GOLD SEASON**

2 Bed Oceanfront \$18,000  
2 Bed Ocean view \$10,000  
1 Bed oceanfront \$11,000  
1 Bed ocean View \$7,500

\*\* Destination Points \$5.00 per point

**La Cabana Beach Resort**

1 Bed wk 39 \$4,500

**We are the #1 Rental Timeshare agent for Aruba!**

We also RENT Aruba weeks for owners, Contact us to BUY, SELL or RENT any timeshare property.

**Contact:**  
stephanier@conciergerealty.com  
**888-888-2204 Ext 104**

**Website:**  
www.conciergerealty.com  
**Broker: Stephanie Reidel**  
www.facebook.com/groups/MarriottArubaSurf/  
www.facebook.com/groups/MarriottAruba/Ocean

**Like us on Facebook**

facebook.com/arubatoday/





Milwaukee Bucks guard Damian Lillard (0) drives against Los Angeles Clippers center Daniel Theis during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Los Angeles, Sunday, March 10, 2024.

Associated Press

## Damian Lillard scores 16 in the 4th quarter, and Bucks hold off short-handed Clippers

By **GREG BEACHAM**  
AP Sports Writer

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Damian Lillard scored 16 of his 35 points in the fourth quarter of the Milwaukee Bucks' first victory on their California road trip, 124-117 over the short-handed Los Angeles Clippers on Sunday. Lillard hit three of his seven 3-pointers in the fourth, while Giannis Antetokounmpo had 34 points, 10 assists and seven rebounds as the Bucks' superstar duo took over the game down the stretch. Antetokounmpo and Lillard became only the second pair of teammates since 1980 to record at least 30 points and 10 assists apiece in the same game, according to the NBA.

"It's how we work in practice," Antetokounmpo said. "We got a lot of good shots down the stretch. Tonight it worked, and it's something we're going to have to do moving forward."

From the start of the fourth quarter, Antetokounmpo and Lillard either scored or assisted on 31 consecutive points for Milwaukee, decimating the Clippers with the two-man game that the Bucks are counting on to lead them to championship contention. "I think it's getting much better," Lillard said of his connection to Antetokounmpo in their first season as teammates. "To start the season, I think a lot of people wanted it to just click and happen right away. But I think any time you put two guys together who have always been the decision-maker, always had their hands on the ball for years and years and years, it's going to take time for us to learn how to play with each other."

Malik Beasley added 17 points as the Bucks rebounded from back-to-back losses to Golden State and the Lakers by outlasting the Clippers, who played without Kawhi Leonard and Paul George.

James Harden had 13 points on 5-of-16 shooting and 11 assists while playing without his own two superstar teammates, who both sat out of the team's second home game in less than 24 hours. Leonard and

George played extensively in Los Angeles' win over Chicago on Saturday afternoon, and the Clippers decided to rest Leonard's sore left groin and George's sore left knee. "Those two guys, they're great players, and we understand that," Clippers coach Tyronn Lue said of Lillard and Antetokounmpo. "They had a good game. I thought Dame set the tone early and then took over the game late. Once he got going, it was hard to stop him. We tried to blitz, tried to do some different things, but he had it going and made some big shots." Norman Powell scored 20 of his 26 points in the second half for the Clippers, who already were without injured Russell Westbrook. With more than 57 points per game removed from their lineup, the Clips still gave a tough game to another top team before the final minutes.

Before the game, coach Tyronn Lue called the Clippers' weekend scheduling "very extreme." The Clippers won't face as many scheduling obstacles next year when they move out of the arena they share with the Lakers and the NHL's Los Angeles Kings into the new Intuit Dome in Inglewood.

Six days after the Bucks' 113-106 win over the Clippers in Milwaukee, Lillard and Antetokounmpo finally took charge down the stretch of the rematch to avoid the Bucks' first three-game losing streak in a month.

Neither team led by more than eight points all day until Lillard hit three free throws and a 3-pointer on consecutive possessions with less than two minutes to play.

Harden wasn't at his best, missing seven consecutive shots in the first half and finishing 1 for 6 on 3-pointers.

P.J. Tucker scored his first basket since Nov. 14 for the Clippers in the first quarter, finishing with seven points. The veteran hasn't cracked the Clippers' rotation since he was acquired from Philadelphia along with Harden, and he was fined \$75,000 by the NBA for publicly campaigning for a trade near the deadline. □

## Some fans at frigid Chiefs playoff game underwent amputations, hospital confirms



A gauge displays the temperature on the field at Arrowhead Stadium during the first half of an NFL wild-card playoff football game between the Kansas City Chiefs and the Miami Dolphins, Jan. 13, 2024, in Kansas City, Mo.

Associated Press

By **HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH** and **ARNIE STAPLETON**  
Associated Press

**KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)** — Some of the people who attended the near-record cold Kansas City Chiefs playoff game in January had to undergo amputations after suffering frostbite, a Missouri hospital said Friday.

Research Medical Center didn't provide exact numbers but said in a statement that it treated dozens of people who had experienced frostbite during an 11-day cold snap in January. Twelve of those people — including some who were at the Jan. 13 game — had to undergo amputations involving mostly fingers and toes. And the hospital said more surgeries are expected over the next two to four weeks as "injuries evolve."

The University of Kansas hospital said it also treated frostbite victims after the game but didn't report any amputations.

The temperature for the Dolphins-Chiefs wild-card playoff game was minus 4 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 20 Celsius), and wind gusts made for a windchill of minus 27 degrees F (minus 33 C). That shattered the record for the coldest game in Arrowhead Stadium history, which had been 1 degree F (minus 17 C), set in a 1983 game against Denver and matched in 2016 against Tennessee.

The wild-card game was played the same day the Buffalo Bills were supposed to host the Pittsburgh Steelers, but that game was pushed back a day because a blizzard dumped up to 2 feet (0.61 meters) of snow in New York and made traveling to the game too dangerous. The game in Kansas City went on as scheduled because the frigid weather didn't present similar problems getting to Arrowhead Stadium, even though the National Weather Service warned of "dangerously cold" windchills.

Frostbite can occur on exposed skin within 30 minutes, Dr. Megan Garcia, the medical director of the Grossman Burn Center at Research, said in a statement that answered one of the top questions she is asked. The timing can be even shorter if there is a windchill, she said. Fans were allowed to bring heated blankets into the stadium and small pieces of cardboard to place under their feet on the cold concrete.

The coldest game in NFL history remains minus 13 F (minus 25 C) for the 1967 NFL championship, when the Packers beat the Cowboys at Lambeau Field in a game that came to be known as the Ice Bowl. The windchill that day was minus 48 F (minus 44 C).

The Chiefs didn't immediately respond to email messages from The Associated Press seeking comment. □



# Scottie Scheffler, with hot putter, demolishes the field to win at Bay Hill

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) —

Scottie Scheffler became the No. 1 player in golf with his sublime tee-to-green game. He got hot with the putter Sunday in the Arnold Palmer Invitational and was simply unstoppable.

Scheffler made every important putt to build a three-shot lead at the turn and then poured it on with a game so complete he closed with a bogey-free, 6-under 66 — the lowest score by two shots at Bay Hill in the final round — while playing in the last group. He wound up winning the Arnold Palmer Invitational by five shots, the largest margin at Bay Hill since Tiger Woods in 2012. And it came a week before Scheffler defends his title at The Players Championship, which had been his last official PGA Tour win.

All that held him back over the last year was the putter. Scheffler switched to a mallet model this week, but far more important was keeping quiet between the ears, thinking more about the stroke than the outcome.

Both were superb. He made every putt inside 15 feet on the weekend to win at Bay Hill for the second time in three years.

U.S. Open champion Wyndham Clark did the best at trying to stay close, and he was two shots behind through eight holes. But it all turned so quickly. Clark drove into the rough and made bogey on the ninth hole and then didn't make another birdie until the par-5 16th. He shot 70. Scheffler made a pair of birdie putts in the 7-foot range to start the back nine, and then he showed more emotion than usual with a 35-foot birdie on the 15th that turned the final round into a runaway.

Scheffler now has seven PGA Tour titles, all against some of the strongest fields. He picked up \$4 million for winning this signature event. Scheffler finished at 15-under 273.

Clark birdied the 18th for a reasonable consolation



Scottie Scheffler celebrates after a birdie putt on the 15th green during the final round of the Arnold Palmer Invitational golf tournament Sunday, March 10, 2024, in Orlando, Fla.

Associated Press

prize. He earned \$2.2 million as the runner-up.

Shane Lowry, the former British Open champion who started the final round tied with Scheffler, was off his game from the start. He

had three bogeys in seven holes and played the final 10 holes without a bogey for a 72 to finish alone in third.

Russell Henley and Will Zalatoris each had a 72 and

tied for fourth. Zalatoris secured a spot in the British Open for having the lowest score among players not already exempt.

Scheffler opened with a 12-foot birdie and no one caught him the rest of the day. "I just stayed in my own little space and tried to keep pushing," Scheffler said. His lead atop the world ranking got even larger over Rory McIlroy, who had a mathematical chance to overtake him this week. McIlroy started the final round four shots behind and promptly shot 41 on the front nine. He shot 76 and tied for 21st.

"This is a super tough golf course and to be 6 under today going out with the lead and just sort of lapping the field is super im-

pressive," McIlroy said. "But we all knew that he had this in him. His ball-striking is, honestly, on another level compared to everyone else right now.

"We knew if he started to hole putts, then this sort of stuff would happen." This should at least stop questions about Scheffler's putting. He led the field in the most vital putting statistic on Sunday and ranked fifth for the week. This came after he indicated earlier in the week how much the constant questions were grating on him.

"If I get asked constantly about putting, sometimes it feels like I'm not playing well. But I'm playing pretty darn good," he said on Monday while at the TPC Sawgrass. □



**Come and join the FUN!**  
Everyday from 10am till 6pm  
We have **DOUBLE** points

**BINGO**  
Play Every Day  
Bingo starts at 4:30PM

Slot Play \$10  
Match Play \$15

**Sign up and become a VIP Member.  
ID required upon redemption!**

**Operations Hours**  
Slots: 10am  
Table: 4pm







Located at RIU Antillas. For more info call: 5257777 or Follow us on  





## Start this year's vacation with this amazing experience in the heart of Costa Linda Beach Resort

*Water's Edge Restaurant is a jewel many had the pleasure to find!*

**Eagle Beach – When you think of a restaurant that pleases the needs of a whole family or a large group of people with all different tastes? Think Water's Edge Restaurant. Located at the shore of Aruba's most wonderful beach, The Eagle Beach Aruba. Water's Edge Restaurant is guaranteed to serve you a fantastic magical night to remember. Whether you prefer to enjoy the view from indoors air conditioned comfort, outdoors in the soft tropical breeze or under a palapa with your toes in the sand. This spectacular restaurant offers the best ocean view sunset or sky full of stars dinner while the crispy Caribbean night wind caresses your face and plays with your hair.**

From the minute you arrive there will be a great staff welcoming you with the most contagious smiles and warmth. The intense menu with a great variety of appetizers, main courses and delicious desserts will not disappoint. Seafood, Steaks and international favorites. All on one menu specially made just for you.

### Culinary Voyage

Start your gastronomic journey with a scrumptious appetizer such as the Maryland Crab Cakes, maybe the Crispy



Calamari or the mouthwatering creamy Garlic Tarragon Shrimp. You can also opt for a classic French Onion Soup, a Lobster Bisque or the famously Water's Edge House Wedge, a crisp wedge of fresh romaine lettuce topped with homemade blue cheese dressing, diced tomatoes, chopped bacon, caramelized pecans and blue cheese crumbles, drizzled with balsamic reduction. This followed by the Chef's special of seafood such as Fresh salmon filet seasoned and grilled, topped with lemon cilantro butter and served with homemade mashed potatoes and fresh asparagus, a nice plate of Ahi Tuna or a succulent pasta dish like the Florentina Fettuccine Alfredo. Meat Lovers will have their fix with choices of a devourable 22oz. Bone-In "Tomahawk" Rib-Eye, pan seared in garlic infused oil and finished in the oven or our juicy N.Y Strip Loin, seasoned & grilled. All our steaks options are seasoned with a blend of kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper. Served with homemade mashed potatoes, seasoned vegetables and a choice of red wine reduction, green peppercorn demi glace, mushroom sauce, or bacon blue cheese butter. For extra sides the options are delectable. Fresh asparagus, seasonal vegetables, mashed or baked potatoes, fries or rice and beans. Combine your personal choice with one of the most exclusive wine from the great selection of international wines to compliment your dish. Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled kids menu and there are also optional dishes for all vegans, vegetarians and gluten-free guests. To end the culinary voyage with some luscious sweetness, the desserts are wild. From a piece of coconut flan, NY cheese cake, carrot cake, chocolate brownie or our classic Tiramisu with kahlua and amaretto served with choco-



late sauce and coffee jelly. Not to mention the fresh and light piece of key lime pie.

### Creating memories

If you are planning a birthday dinner, here you will receive a nice bottle of champagne to take home with you to extend your experience even further whether on the beach or your own private balcony.

### Live entertainment

Just about every day of the week, there is a different live entertainment by the best local artists for you to enjoy. Whether you're in a romantic mood, or more in a swinging mood, there is absolutely a night especially for you where you can combine great music with delicious cocktails mixed with concoctions. In addition, Water's Edge offers three daily Happy Hours from 12pm-1pm, 4pm-6pm and again from 9pm-10pm with all premium brands specially priced.

### Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Whether you join us for breakfast, lunch or dinner, Water's Edge Restaurant & Bar offers a relaxed and inspirational dining experience overlooking the beautiful Eagle Beach with spectacular ocean views. Gather with friends and family for drinks and appetizers or a night of pampering and relaxation.

### Thank you to all our guests

From the bottom of our hearts, we would like to Thank all of our guests who showed us so much love and support all throughout the year, and hopefully will continue to do so in the years to come. What we are most grateful for is that we could get back to doing what we love, which is looking after our guests. So, thank you for every dinner, lunch, breakfast, every to-go order, every glass of wine, every birthday, anniversary and date-night that you spent with us this last year. To our new guests, Welcome! We hope you to see you back soon! ☑



*"Water's Edge Restaurant is where magnificent beach views, amazing food and excellent service come together."*

Water's Edge is open daily from 8am – 11pm

To reserve your table please call **+297 583-8000 / ext 8106** or direct line **+297 586-9494**

For more information about the menus, entertainment and hours, please visit the website **watersedge-aruba.com**